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COSMOPOLITAN ITEMS.

THE NEW ENGRAVING.—Let us refer the reader, and all interested in art, to the announcement made on page 136. In introducing the splendid engraving, "Shakspeare and His Friends," to the public, the Directory have had in view the rapidly advancing taste of the people, who now desire the best works by the best masters. The purchase of the plate was effected, after long negotiation and the payment of a heavy sum, during the spring; and every preparation at once made to forward the work of impressing. The process is very tedious, and few persons can imagine the care and time necessary to produce each impression. This trouble increases rapidly with the size of the plate, so that engravings of the surface and character of "The Village Blacksmith," and "Shakspeare and His Friends," disappoint even the printers themselves in the number of good impressions which can be made in the course of the whole twenty-four hours. To meet the contingencies of such a process, the Directory have resolved hereafter to put their annual engraving to press *early in the year*, and, by not remitting the work night or day, during the summer, to open the lists with such a stock on hand as must serve to supply any probable demand of subscribers. This *could not* be done with "The Village Blacksmith," because possession of the plate was not had until late in September; and, although not a single hour has been lost since that time, in the effort to supply subscribers, it has not been in the power of human hands to take good impressions enough for the whole list, even up to the time of writing this paragraph (June 1st), though it is probable that, ere this Number of the Journal reaches the distant subscribers, the whole list will have been supplied. There will be no such delay in the de-

livery of the new engraving, "Shakspeare and His Friends." By the first of August (when their delivery will commence) there will be a stock on hand sufficient to supply every demand *immediately*, and no "rush of subscriptions," at any time thereafter, will exceed the ability to supply all orders. We *know* this cannot give the subscribers more satisfaction than it does to the officers of the Association, to whom all delays are not only extremely annoying, but entails a great additional labor of useless correspondence.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—The time of delivery of this engraving was necessarily extended beyond May 20th. The plate has not been allowed to rest, and will not be until every order is filled—which doubtless will be by July 1st—10th. The Directory have done all in their power to expedite the impressions—no delay has been had, and if some have had to wait unexpectedly long it has been simply unavoidable. Those who have written hard things in regard to this late delivery, know nothing, evidently, of the process of plate printing, or we should have been spared many an insulting and silly message. All have been supplied, thus far, in exact order of the *date* of their certificate, and will be so supplied to the end. The *Sixth* year's subscribers (holding Numbers from 1 up to 1500) will be supplied between July 10th and August 1st. Let us again beg the subscriber to believe that he or she is served in exactly the right time of order, and that nothing will be left undone to fulfil every promise made by the Association. See item above.

CLUB TERMS.—Let us refer the reader for standing terms to page 136. We very much desire agents and canvassers, to whom we shall extend such terms as will make it a pleasant and *profitable* business to take hold of the matter. Apply to this office for circular. No such engraving was ever offered for \$3 as the "Shakspeare and His Friends;" it has but to be seen to be coveted; therefore canvassing for it will be an easy matter, bringing ready returns. Let all who would earn an engraving for themselves, or would make a handsome sum of money for the labor bestowed, write to us for a circular.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE ART JOURNAL.—Those not yet supplied with the December and March Art Journal (Vol. II.)

will be supplied soon after July 1st. New editions are in press sufficiently large to meet all orders. It will be the endeavor, hereafter, to print a first edition large enough to meet all wants. Our Journal is a very expensive one to print, and it is necessary, therefore, to keep the editions close to the orders so as to have few superfluous numbers. We may have been too cautious, in this particular, heretofore; but, as the whole work is electrotyped, it is easier to fill all orders than to incur a heavy loss from having printed more than was required.

THE PAINTING OF THE "VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."—This celebrated painting, the original itself, *will be among the premiums awarded to subscribers next January!* It is now travelling for exhibition, and, in the course of the fall and winter, will visit all the leading cities of the Union. Look out for it, friends; and when it is in your city or vicinity be sure to see it. It is the great Herring's masterpiece, and some one of the members of the "COSMOPOLITAN ART ASSOCIATION," for the sixth year, is to become its possessor. Who is he or she?

SUPERB PROSPECTUS!—The premiums to be awarded to subscribers for this (the sixth) year will exceed in number and value that of any collection yet distributed. It will embrace many works of superior excellence by our leading masters. The *Art Journal* will increase in interest and value, and will be superior to *any* publication ever furnished at its terms. The engraving literally "speaks for itself." What a truly superb benefit is offered to the art-loving public!

PRIZES AWARDED.—Some prizes awarded at the last distribution of premiums have not yet been ordered from our hands, although the parties have been advised of their fortune. We wish all paintings to be ordered as soon from our hands as the subscriber receives notification of his good fortune. We, in no case, pay express or carriage charges, or charges for packing, on prizes drawn and remitted. The pictures are all properly framed at the expense of the Association, but no other charges are paid. Some of the subscribers who were so fortunate as to draw large and costly paintings have actually complained that the same were not sent to them free of express charges and cost of boxing!